

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



ORIGINAL

99-81

00-258

01-185

NELSON MANDELA

RECEIVED

DEC 31 2002

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

June 9, 2001

The Honorable Colin Powell
Secretary of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington DC
United States of America

Dear Colin

In its role as representative of the U.S. administration in the International Telecommunications Union, the Department of State considers matters that have a significant impact on development of communications infrastructure, both in the U.S. and globally. That infrastructure is vital not just for basic telephony, but as support for the broader global economic infrastructure. Ubiquitous and advanced telecommunications networks are thus indispensable in promoting health and economic well-being of developing nations. It is on behalf of communities in these nations that I would like to urge that U.S. policies continue to foster multiple and varied telecommunications services, including mobile satellite services, through your national and international spectrum policies.

The U.S. fought hard, and with the support of developing countries, to make spectrum available for satellite services, particularly mobile satellite services, for nearly a decade at the ITU. With the recent economic downturn, some part of the satellite market, particularly the mobile satellite services sector, have faltered. Within that sector, ICO is wisely adapting its business plan to boost its prospects for success in a difficult market,

No. of Copies rec'd
Listed Below

PRIVATE BAG X70 000, HOUGHTON, 2041, SOUTH AFRICA

TEL: 27 (0)11 728 1000, FAX: 27 (0)11 728 1111

and its ~~tenacious~~ commitment to building an innovative broadband mobile satellite system should be given the government's *utmost support*. Despite new *strategies* being adopted by ICO and other mobile satellite service providers, current economic circumstances have made *it difficult* to maintain existing services, and have led some to question whether any further support is warranted for satellite services

Withdrawal ~~of~~ support for spectrum policies that promote satellite services, at this crucial juncture, would be a serious error. The need for basic telecommunications infrastructure remains acute in less developed areas of the world, and the need is dramatic.

The U.S. must continue its leadership in promoting innovation and diversity of telecommunications infrastructure around the globe. Satellites are and will remain a pivotal element of international communications networks. Satellite services hold great promise for expanding *the reach* of telecommunications beyond urban areas to support infrastructure that supports health, education, and social services to rural and remote communities. For developing nations, they may be the only answer to the challenge of connecting communities that are isolated by terrain or distance from urban telecommunications infrastructure.

U.S. leadership in securing global allocations for satellite spectrum has been a key factor in bringing basic communications to regions where none existed before. Continued U.S. commitment will help developing countries expand this infrastructure beyond the cities, and to do so in a cost effective way. I hope you will carefully weigh these considerations in any future spectrum decisions on satellite services.

Sincerely,



NELSON MANDELA